

## ABSTRACT

The invention discloses a method for detecting a nucleic acid of interest in at least one sample comprising administering the sample to a solid carrier capable of at least in part absorbing the sample, drying the carrier, providing at least a representative part of the carrier to a nucleic acid isolation solution so that a representative amount of the nucleic acid is extracted from the carrier, and detecting the representative amount of the nucleic acid. With a method of the invention, a sample, such as a body fluid sample, is stabilized in such a way that it can be shipped from the site of taking (for instance local hospital or lab in a less-developed country) and be sent to a service testing laboratory elsewhere in the world by normal logistics means. At least 100  $\mu$ l or at least 250  $\mu$ l of sample is administered to the carrier in order to detect low titers of nucleic acid of interest. A kit for detecting, identifying and/or quantifying a nucleic acid of interest in a sample, comprising a solid carrier capable of at least in part absorbing the sample, and a nucleic acid isolation solution, is also described.